



LARC



Volume 55, Number 1

ACADIANA AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC..

JANUARY 2015

January 2015 President's Message - Larry Leblanc KE5KJD

I have had some time lately to see a little more of what ham radio has to offer. All of us have our favorite activity with ham radio, but it may be time to expand our horizons and knowledge of other ham radio activity. Some have a blast with digital modes, and in our club that has meant learning to use FLDIGI. Some are into seeing what DX contacts we can make. Others are into satellite and space communications. A lot of our newer and older hams are enjoying using repeaters and their connections to the internet. Some are repairing and using "boat anchors", which in some cases can outperform many of the newer radios.

In preparing to retest my antennas, I have reloaded WSPR, a low power transmit/receive digital weak signal program which will connect to other stations using the system and report those making contact on a global map. It reports whether the contact is a one way transmit or receive, or two way contact. It also reports the signal level received and the power level on transmit. It is a real time saver when checking one antenna against another. If you are interested, check out <http://www.wsprnet.org>. Even if you are not checking out your antennas, it is a lot of fun to see where your low power signal is going. In order to take full advantage, it is nice to have your rig controlled by a computer, but is not necessary to make use of the program. You do need an internet connection to see the results of receiving signals and transmitted signals in the global database available on the same site.

Another neat system is the "Reverse Beacon Network", which Nick Pugh K5QXJ mentioned at one of our "Wednesday lunch bunch" sessions. I finally got to look into it in more detail and am amazed at how well it works. It shows CW communications taking place in near real time from one CW operator to another. It also shows the signal to noise ratio for the contact, the exact frequency used, and the country where the contact is taking place. It uses the technology pioneered by "CW Skimmer" which reads multiple CW signals within the band and reports two way contacts in real time. This information is invaluable for DX contest operators to gain an advantage in making contacts by increasing the probability that they are transmitting at the right time, on the best frequency, and in the right direction to make the contact. It seems somewhat like "cheating" but is more akin to using technology to best advantage. You can see the results at: <http://www.reversebeacon.net/main.php>. Look at it and read more about how it is used. I just like to check it occasionally and see if I can also hear the signals on my radio.

Another interesting thing I came across this week is a set of images (video) from the International Space Station by Don Pettit, KD5MDT. I especially enjoyed seeing the Aurora from space: <http://forums.qrz.com/showthread.php?461689-Video-of-radio-ham-s-images-from-space>.

Just a quick update on my current projects: Both antenna 6-position switches are built and working. The parts for the DTMF transmitter with keypad is in but I am still waiting on the parts for the decoder, which will go into the switch box to allow antenna switching over the coax cable or with a control cable. I have also ordered a receiving amplifier with low impedance input to do some experiments with a small loop. I also ran microphone tests with Larry Bruce, W1UUU and determined that is little difference between my \$20 Radio Shack microphone modified with a capacitor in the shell and a Heil microphone. He recorded both for me to compare over the air. Thanks Larry from Larry.

I am looking forward to our meeting on January 8. Hope to see all of you there. Remember to pray for a full recovery for Nick, KE5MWX so he can attend as well.

Larry KE5KJD.

JANUARY 2015 AARA GENERAL MEETING

Being a first Thursday in January 2015 falls on New Year's Day, the January AARA General Meeting will be held on the second Thursday of January which will be January 8, 2015 at 7:00 PM at the Red Cross Building, 101 N. Pat Street, Scott, Louisiana. Galen KF5BET (Nominating Committee Chairman) will present their slate of officers at the meeting and at the February meeting nominations from the floor will take place and elections held.

New officers will be installed in March after the AARA Hamfest. We plan to have a VE Test Session at 6:00 PM.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

DATES TO REMEMBER**GENERAL MEETING**

January 8, 2015 @ 7:00 PM
 Red Cross Building
 101 N. Pat St. Scott, LA
 VE Testing Tonight @ 6:00 PM

AREA HAMFESTS

See page 4

Local 2-Meter Nets**Sunday**

Opelousas Area ARA Net 7:00 PM
 147.150 PL 103.5 Carencro, LA

Monday

AARA Monday Night Net 7:00 PM
 146.820 - PL 103.5 Lafayette, LA

Tuesday

Acadiana ARES Net 7:00 PM
 145.370 - PL 103.5 Lafayette, LA

Wednesday

Bodie's Memorial DX Net
 145.410 New Iberia, LA

Thursday

Youth Net 7:00 PM
 146.820 - PL 103.5 Lafayette, LA

AARA OFFICERS 2014 - 2015

President - Larry LeBlanc KE5KJD
 LarryJamesLeBlanc@centurylink.net

Vice Pres. - Jess Gillion - KF5LUL

Secretary - Sandy Leblanc - KE5KJF

Treasurer - Archie Hill—W5AG

BOARD MEMBERS

Paula Romero - KF5CNS

Glen Thibodeaux - KF5FNP

James Williams - KF5RBW

Kendra Wilson - KF5FYS

QSL MANAGER

Roland Guidry - NA5Q

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 the:

Acadiana Amateur Radio Association

P. O. Box 51174

Lafayette, Louisiana 70505-1174

Regular meetings 1st Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the American Red Cross Building, 101 North Pat Street, Scott, LA

DECEMBER AARA CLUB MEETING MINUTES

December 4, 2014

CLUB MEETING:

- The AARA Christmas Banquet meeting was called to order by President Larry LeBlanc KE5KJD. The Banquet was held at the Golden Corral on Ambassador Caffery Parkway in Lafayette, LA, on December 4, 2014 at 6 p.m.
- Herman Campbell led the prayer and we all prayed for members who are healing, and for the safety of all who are traveling during the Holidays.
- All said the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 25 members and guests attended the Banquet

Larry LeBlanc, President, wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. He announced that we would dispense with the regular meeting and enjoy visiting.

Nominating Committee: Galen Wilson KF5BET, Nominating Committee Chairman, announced that the new slate of officers had been determined. The committee will present a slate of Officers at the January meeting. Voting will be in February with nominations taken from the floor. Installation of new officers will take place in March after the Hamfest.

Karen Marshall won the door prize – a toaster oven.

Our next meeting will be on the **second Thursday in January. That will be Thursday, January 8, 2015.**

On a unanimous vote the meeting was adjourned.

Respectively submitted,
 Sandy LeBlanc KE5KJF
 AARA Secretary 2014-2015

PHOTOS OF CHRISTMAS BANQUET

December 4, 2014
 Golden Corral





34th Annual Hammond Hamfest

Saturday, January 17, 2015

Time: 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Location: Magnuson Hotel & Conference Center
2000 South Morrison Blvd.

Talk-In: 147.000 (-600) PL 107.2

Admission & Parking: Free

Dealers & Vendors

Palmetto Antennas
Hub City Amateur Radio Sales
Tiny's Monograms

VE Test Session

(La Veranda Room)

Registration Begins 8:30 am- Test Fee \$15 cash, photo ID, copy of license or CSCE. Testing begins following Registration.

Forum Schedule

(Pontchartrain Room)

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM TBA

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM TBA

11:00 AM - 12:00 Noon TBA

Grand Prizes:

1st: Icom IC-718 HF Transceiver 100W, 160-10 meters CW built-in keyer, 101 memories, 12V operation

2nd: MFJ-949E Deluxe Versa Tuner II Manual Antenna Tuner, 300 Watts 160-10 meters

3rd: VISA Gift Card - \$150 Value

4th: Baofeng UV-5R Dual Band Handheld

More info on website at:

<http://www.selarc.org/>
selarchamfest.htm

Editor's Notes

I received an interesting email from Jackie Price KA5LMZ, President of the BEARS club of Morgan City, on December 23, 2014, that I found very interesting and would like to share it with you. It goes like this:

"I'd like to pass on to you all a conversation in my shop this afternoon. The director of the St. Mary Council on Aging was in shopping today. Out of the blue, she said our activity at the Lighthouse this year was outstanding and what a service we perform for the community. Thank each of you who have taken part not only in the Lighthouse, but the Bear Festival, Field Day and all the other public activities we work with each year.

A couple hours later, an old friend and former resident who holds a doctorate in electronics was in town and came to visit. We had gotten him interested in ham radio 20 years ago, then he let his license expire. His first question was whether we still had any ham radio activity, and his expression when I told him about our club station was one of disbelief. His residence is in "Big D" but he came back to Morgan City to see what he has been missing and is ready to again obtain his license.

Each of you have been a part of this and what we have accomplished "for the good of the order," sets an example that few clubs can follow".

THANK YOU!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

73

Jackie KA5LMZ

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There are quite a few HF 75 meter nets that are looking for net control operators. If you are licensed for these frequencies and would like to contribute to being a NCS, I would suggest that you contact one of the current NCS operators to get a preamble and roster and help out on these nets. Some of these nets are:

Delta 75 Net at 7 PM on 3905 KHz

Gulf Coast Single Sideband Net at 6:30 PM on 3925 KHz

Central Gulf Coast Net at 7:00 PM on 3935 KHz

(Central Time)

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WORD TO THE WISE

Enjoy being with your families, thank your lucky stars for what and who you have, wish for those who are hurting to be less so, and remember those who blazed a trail for us. - The ARRL Contest Update for December 31, 2014.

**AARA Wishes
Everyone A....**

Happy New Year
2015

New Element 3 (General Class) Question Pool Released

12/17/2014

The Question Pool Committee of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) has released the 2015-2019 Element 3 (General Class) question pool. The new question pool becomes effective for all Element 3 examinations administered on or after July 1, 2015, and it remains valid until June 30, 2019.

The question pool files are available in PDF, Microsoft Word (.doc), and ASCII text formats. Section G7A requires the use of one illustration, a schematic identified as G7-1. This drawing file is published separately.

— Thanks to Roland Anders, K3RA, NCVEC Question Pool Committee Chairman

AARA 55th ANNUAL HAMFEST - RAYNE, LOUISIANA MARCH 20th & 21st, 2015

The annual AARA Hamfest in Rayne, Louisiana is approaching fast once again and everyone in the club would like to welcome you back to South Louisiana. This year our hamfest will be hosting the ARRL Louisiana State Convention. We look forward to having a full house and want to invite you back as part of the festivities here in south Louisiana. The dates for this year are Friday & Saturday March 20 and 21, 2015.

We will once again be having a Fais-Do-Do (dance) with the Texas Ham Playboys and a Crawfish Boil on Friday night. Saturday will be filled with plenty to do for everyone. Bingo will once again be offered, while many vendors and swap tables will be filled with everything "new & old hams" can imagine. There will also be various forums and presentations throughout the day.

Glen Thibodeau KF5FNP, Hamfest Chairman, has been very busy lately lining up vendors, speakers, and everything else needed to make this another great and exciting hamfest.

Below are some of the things that are on the agenda at the present time, more may be added as we approach our hamfest date. Please check out our website for updated information at:

<http://w5ddl.org/hamfest/index.htm>

CONFIRMED MANUFACTURERS & FACTORY REPRESENTATIVES:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ KENWOOD U.S.A. ■ MFJ ENTERPRISES ■ ELECRAFT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ EXPERT AMPS USA ■ FLEXRADIO
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CONFIRMED DEALERS:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ MAIN TRADING COMPANY ■ PALMETTO ANTENNAS ■ SIGN MAN OF BATON ROUGE ■ BE READY SOLAR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ HUB CITY AMATEUR RADIO SALES ■ FRANK KRIZE (SURPLUS TUBES & PARTS) ■ M^cM COMPUTERS
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MAIN PRIZES

Grand Prize: Kenwood TS-480 SAT

2nd Prize: Yaesu FT1-DR Dual Band Digital/Analog Amateur Transceiver

3rd Prize: MFJ 269A Antenna Analyzer

4th Prize: MFJ OCF Dipole Antenna

5th Prize: ARRL 1 Year Membership

***More prizes to be announced.**

Raffle Tickets: 1-\$1.00, 6-\$5.00, 15-\$10.00, 25-\$15.00, 35-\$20.00, 50-\$25.00, 125-\$50.00, 275-\$100.00 etc.

Plus door prizes awarded each half hour Saturday throughout the day. (Must be present to win.)

Need not be present to win the Main Prizes

DECEMBER 2014 ACADIANA AREA 2 METER NET REPORTS

NET	SESSIONS:	TOTAL CHECK-INS:	TOTAL TRAFFIC:	TOTAL TIME: Minutes	Net Manager
OAARC Net - Opelousas Area Amateur Radio Club	6	45	Ø	55	N5LRZ Ray
AARA Monday Night Net	5	77	Ø	171	W5GTI Mark
Acadiana ARES Net	4	23	Ø	60	N5LRZ Ray
Bodie's Memorial DX Net	4	16	3	30	N5LRZ Ray
Youth Thursday Night Net	2	45	Ø	105	KF5BEW Abbi KF5FYS Kendra

“Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving.”

— Albert Einstein

AARA Monday Night 2 Meter Net Rotation

Mark W5GTI, the net control station, for the AARA Monday Night Net had suggested that the net be rotated between three different area repeaters. Here is the January 2015 schedule:

DATE:	TIME:	REPEATER:	PL TONE:
January 5	7:00 PM	146.820	103.5
January 12	7:00 PM	145.370	103.5
January 19	7:00 PM	147.040	103.5
January 26	7:00 PM	146.820	103.5

When using the SkyWarn 145.370 repeater, be sure to use the receiver PL Tone for your area as follows:

NW Quadrant 114.8 - NE Quadrant 127.3 - SW Quadrant 141.3 - SE Quadrant 94.8.

The January 2015 schedule can be downloaded and printed in Adobe Acrobat .PDF from the club website at:

<http://www.w5ddl.org/clubsites/files/monday net.pdf>

Notice: On the January 13th, 2014 AARA Monday Night Net, Mark made a offer that went like this:

The top 10 check-ins on the Monday Night AAARA Net during 2014 will get their call/name entered into a drawing and winner will receive a Chinese import dual band handi-talkie paid for by Mark W5GTI. **HOW ABOUT THAT?** So be sure to check into the net and thanks to Mark in keeping the net active.

Mark W5GTI will announce on the January 6th AARA Monday Night Net, which will be on the 146.820 repeater, the top 10 check-ins over the last year and at the January meeting a name will be drawn to win the VHF/UHF handi-talkie with accessories . Hope to see you there.

AARA MEMBERSHIP DUES

If you have not paid your 2015-2016 AARA membership dues, now would be a good time to do so. A membership application can be downloaded from the website at:

http://www.w5ddl.org/aara_membership_appl.pdf

AARA



UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

1/1	NICK	K5QXJ
1/3	BARBARA	N5AUO
1/5	ARCHIE	W5AG
1/24	GARY	WB5VBB
2/3	JIM	N5NVP

Some members failed to put their birthdays on their applications for renewal / membership causing some names to be missing from the list.

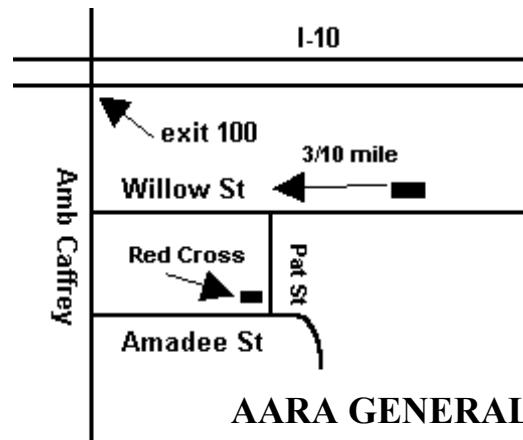


Hope you had a lot of fun working the W1AW Centennial portable stations and managed to work all states. It took a lot of dedication and perseverance to achieve this goal.

Acadiana Amateur Radio Assoc., Inc.
P. O. Box 51174
Lafayette, LA 70505-1174



Website: <http://www.w5ddl.org>



Share the Fun - Bring a
Friend to be a HAM !

AARA GENERAL MEETING
January 8, 2015 @ 7:00 PM
Red Cross Building - 101 N. Pat St. Scott, LA
VE Testing Tonight @ 6:00 PM
Golden Corral - Ambassador Caffery
Lunch Bunch - Each Wednesday 10:45 AM – 2:00 PM
Golden Corral - Amb. Caffery - Lafayette, LA
Check 146.820 PL 103.5 - repeater for info.

COMPLIMENTARY
ISSUE

Slow Cooker Bread Pudding

Submitted by Ramona Jobe

10 slices of raisin bread, diced	1 tsp. vanilla extract
1 14 oz. can of sweetened con- densed milk	4 eggs, beaten
1 cup water	

Directions for Pudding:

Spray inside of crock pot with Pam. Place diced bread in crock pot. Mix milk, eggs, water, vanilla and pour over bread. Stir to coat well.

Cover and cook for 2 1/2 to 3 hours on low setting. Serve with ice cream, cool whip or rum sauce (see recipe below).

Rum Sauce

2 tsp. flour	3 tsp. of butter
1 cup sugar	1 tsp. rum extract
1/2 cup evaporated milk	

Directions for Rum Sauce:

In a heavy saucepan, combine flour and sugar.

Stir in milk. Cook over medium heat to bubbly boil stage, stir constantly for 2-3 minutes.

Remove from heat and add butter and rum extract.

Pour over warm bread pudding or just over individual servings.



FCC Information Service

Toll Free (WATS) for Amateur Radio license inquiries about new/vanity call signs: 888-225-5322. This will connect you to the FCC National Call Center, handled by the FCC's Consumer Information Bureau. Amateurs having ULS problems or questions should contact the FCC's ULS Technical Support staff at: 202-414-1250 or: ulscomm@fcc.gov.

FCC Website:

<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>

New call sign information can also be obtained from the ARRL/VEC at 860-594-3000.

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec>

The mailing address to the FCC is:

Federal Communications Commission, 1270 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325-7245